

Special Programs and Opportunities

There are many special study and experiential opportunities available at Pomona College, including The Writing Center, study abroad programs, Oldenborg Center, cooperative academic programs at other colleges/universities, career planning and volunteer programs.



THE WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center provides students with a community of experienced readers and writers, offering free, one-on-one consultations at any stage of the writing process—from figuring out how to approach an assignment, through generating a thesis and structuring an argument to fine-tuning a draft. Consultations are free and confidential.

The Writing Fellows are Pomona students—sophomores, juniors and seniors—majoring in subjects as varied as English, neuroscience, politics and religious studies. They are trained to work with writers at all levels, and on assignments in any discipline. For more information, please see The Writing Center page on the portal under the “Academics” tab.

STUDY ABROAD

Study Abroad Committee

Pomona College offers qualified students a variety of opportunities for study abroad. The Study Abroad Committee, a standing committee of the faculty that includes two student representatives, has jurisdiction over all aspects of Pomona’s study abroad programs. The committee identifies and approves programs, authorizes credit and selects participants.

Office of Study Abroad

The Office of Study Abroad was established in 1973 to develop and supervise overseas programs. The office staff assists and advises students who are interested in studying in other countries. Approximately one-half of each graduating class participates in a Pomona semester abroad. A booklet titled *Pomona College Study Abroad Guide*, with detailed information on the programs described below, may be obtained from the Office of Study Abroad, Summer Hall, Pomona College. Students should refer to the office’s Website for updated information: <http://www.pomona.edu/administration/study-abroad>.

Pomona Programs

The College sponsors programs in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, South Africa, Spain and Taiwan. These programs vary in content and format, and availability is subject to change. The range of subject matter reflects the particular opportunities and scholastic strengths available in each location. Language instruction is an integral part of the programs in foreign-language countries.

Non-Pomona Programs

In cases where no appropriate Pomona program exists, a student may request that the Study Abroad Committee approve a specific program on an ad-hoc basis. The applicant must convince the committee of the academic merit of the request to study on a non-Pomona program based on the quality of the proposed overseas program and the student's own background and academic goals.

Credit

The maximum allowable credit a student may receive for a semester abroad is four Pomona course credits. The evaluation process for work done abroad differs among Pomona programs and non-Pomona programs. Credit for study abroad is determined by the director of study abroad on the recommendation of the relevant overseas program director.

Application Procedures

All students who wish to study abroad and receive Pomona course credits must submit an application to the Study Abroad Committee for acceptance and approval during the semester before the proposed study abroad. The necessary forms may be obtained online from the Study Abroad Website: <http://www.pomona.edu/administration/study-abroad>. The forms must be returned to the Office of Study Abroad by the late-September deadline for spring programs and by the mid-February deadline for programs beginning in the fall.

Selection Criteria and Eligibility

Students must present evidence of the necessary academic strength, linguistic skills and special preparation in the area of the proposed course of study. They should make a persuasive case that the proposed program and destination are appropriate in terms of academic and cultural goals. They must also demonstrate the individual initiative and sense of responsibility necessary to complete the program abroad.

Competition may occur within the various programs since some have a limited number of spaces. It should be noted that some programs have specific course prerequisites and/or GPA requirements.

The student's advisor must support the applicant and indicate that the proposed foreign study will advance and not impede progress toward the degree. Applicants are also asked to complete a form indicating how they expect to complete graduation requirements.

Students may study abroad as second-semester sophomores, juniors or first-semester seniors. First-semester sophomores and second-semester seniors are not generally eligible for study abroad. Students on probation may not apply for or participate in programs abroad.

Cost

Students accepted for study abroad programs are charged Pomona tuition, room and board. This amount covers the academic program fees abroad, room and board, as well as a travel stipend toward round-trip transportation between Los Angeles and the program site. In exceptional cases, a surcharge may be added. Students on financial aid normally receive their regular assistance while on a semester abroad.

Students who withdraw after submitting a signed contract accepting the offer to study abroad will be charged a withdrawal fee of \$350, plus all direct unrecoverable costs contracted on the student's behalf and a prorated share of the program's administrative costs. A reduction in course load of an overseas program will not result in any adjustment in the semester's fees as originally billed.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The College encourages the active participation of students in research projects working closely with faculty and/or working on their own independent projects. A number of talented students are able to gain valuable inquiry, library, laboratory and/or field experience while working with professors or independently on research projects during the academic year and the summer break. Student research participation is made possible through external grants obtained by individual faculty members, support to the College from outside funding sources and College-supported grants awarded competitively to students who propose collaborative projects.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Program, or umbrella term “SURP,” encompasses the summer research activities of all Pomona College students irrespective of the funding source or location of the research endeavor. The program enables students to conduct extended, focused research in close cooperation with a Pomona faculty member as a research assistant or delve into an independent research project, on or off campus. Specialized grants are awarded in environmental analysis, media studies, the natural and social sciences and other fields. Projects generally range across all disciplines.

The College supports students’ SURP work with research funds of up to \$4,000 each for the summer project. As a culmination of their efforts, students make a presentation of their summer research endeavors to the College community at the Annual Fall Poster Conference. In addition students with particularly meritorious projects may apply for College support to present their results at a national conference. SURP projects frequently form the basis of a senior exercise project. Titles of a few typical SURP-projects include: “Invariance Relations for Random Walks on Cubic Lattices,” “An Evaluation and Analysis of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting in California: 1974-2004” and “Imaging the Chrysanthemum Princess: Japanese Journalists Cover Princess Masako.”

COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Student Exchange Programs

Under arrangements made each year, Pomona sophomores, juniors and first-semester seniors may study as exchange students for a semester at Colby College in Waterville, Maine; Smith College in Northampton, Mass.; Spelman College in Atlanta; or Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Penn. Interested students should ask for further information from the Office of Student Affairs. A program for sophomores and juniors for an entire academic year is possible at the California Institute of Technology. The Physics Department can provide information on this program.

Combined 3-2 Plan in Engineering: California Institute of Technology and Washington University in St. Louis

Qualified students may receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pomona College and a Bachelor of Science degree from the California Institute of Technology or Washington University in St. Louis after a combined five-year program. The first three years are taken at Pomona and comprise the student’s general education and preparation for the major of the second institution. Students pursuing this plan will be accepted at Caltech or Washington University under an expedited procedure less elaborate than admission as a transfer student, if recommended by Pomona and if they have the requisite grade point average in science and mathematics courses at Pomona. Caltech specifically reserves the right to limit both the number of students admitted in certain fields of study under the 3-2 program and the financial aid they may offer to accepted students. Interested students should consult with the Physics Department as soon as possible after their arrival on campus.

Under a feature of Washington University in St. Louis’ dual-degree program, each year